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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade and of evaluating the activities undertaken. In paragraph 26 of resolution 45/105, the Assembly requested the Council to submit to it, throughout the Decade, annual reports containing, inter alia, an enumeration of activities, a review and appraisal of those activities and its suggestions and recommendations.

The Council, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1985/19, requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Council, in paragraph 11 of resolution 1990/49, requested the Secretary-General, in his reports, to continue to pay special attention to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

The present report contains information on activities relating to the Second Decade carried out or planned within the United Nations system and information received from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

* E/1991/30.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 38/14, proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 10 December 1983 the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Assembly also approved the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, which was annexed to the resolution, and called upon all States to cooperate in its implementation. The Assembly also requested the Economic and Social Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action and of evaluating the activities undertaken during the Second Decade.

2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 26 of its resolution 45/105, reiterated its request to the Council, throughout the period of the Second Decade to submit annual reports to the General Assembly, containing, inter alia:

(a) An enumeration of the activities undertaken or contemplated to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade, including the activities of Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations;

(b) A review and appraisal of those activities;

(c) Its suggestions and recommendations.

3. The Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1985/19, requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and, in paragraph 14 of resolution 1988/6, requested the Secretary-General to present, in his future annual reports, more detailed information on the relevant activities of all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

4. The Council, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1990/49, invited the Secretary-General to continue with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47, and requested him to accord the highest priority to measures to combat apartheid. In paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of the activities proposed for the first half of the Decade that have not yet been undertaken and in paragraph 11 it requested the Secretary-General to pay special attention in his reports to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

5. The present report is in response to the requests contained in paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 45/105, paragraph 6 of Council resolution 1985/19 and in paragraph 11 of resolution 1990/49. It is intended

to assist the Council in fulfilling its responsibility to coordinate the activities of the Second Decade pursuant to Assembly resolution 38/14 and in submitting to the Assembly the annual report containing, inter alia, a review and appraisal of the activities and suggestions and recommendations pursuant to paragraph 26 of Assembly resolution 45/105.

6. In preparing the report, the Secretary-General sent communications (on 22 October 1990) to all Governments, the specialized agencies, concerned United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status. Those communications requested information of any action and decision taken to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

7. In the communications to Governments and organizations, the Secretary-General drew attention to the Assembly's strong appeal to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. General Assembly

8. The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, in considering its agenda item on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, had before it the report of the Secretary-General on that item (A/45/443), containing information on the activities undertaken to achieve the objectives of the Decade. It also had before it the report originally submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1990 (E/1990/20 and Add.1-3).

9. The Assembly adopted resolution 45/105 in which it decided that the international community in general, and the United Nations in particular, should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and to intensify their efforts during the Second Decade to provide assistance and relief to the victims of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, especially in South Africa and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination. It appealed to all Governments and to international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils.

10. The General Assembly took note of the reports submitted by the Secretary-General containing information on the activities of Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as of United Nations organs, to give effect to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

11. In addition, the General Assembly welcomed the upcoming publication of the global compilation of national legislation against racism and racial discrimination (HR/PUB/1990/8) and requested the Secretary-General to transmit that publication to Governments as soon as possible; it also requested the Secretary-General to publish the study of the Special Rapporteur on the results achieved and the obstacles encountered during the First Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the first half of the Second Decade (A/45/525, annex) and to distribute the publication on as wide a scale as possible.

12. The Assembly noted and commended the efforts made to coordinate all the programmes currently under implementation by the United Nations system relating to the objectives of the Decade and encouraged the Coordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to continue his efforts.

13. With regard to the remaining activities of the Second Decade, the Assembly regretted that parts of the Programme for 1985-1989 had not yet been implemented because of lack of adequate resources, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report to the Council (E/1990/50), and requested him to implement immediately those activities for the period 1985-1989 that had not yet been carried out and to proceed with the implementation of the activities scheduled for the biennium 1990-1991; it affirmed once again the need for the implementation of the plan of activities for 1990-1993 contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47; it requested, therefore, the Secretary-General, pursuant to Assembly resolutions 42/47 and 44/52, to ensure that the necessary and additional resources would be included in the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 to provide implementation of the activities of the Second Decade and requested him to inform the Assembly of the steps taken in that regard.

14. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affected the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492), by submitting specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination.

15. Furthermore, the General Assembly welcomed the progress made in preparing model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to finalize the text of the model legislation and the handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination and to publish and distribute those texts as soon as possible.

B. Centre Against Apartheid and the Special Committee against Apartheid

16. The Centre Against Apartheid reports that during 1990 changes have been set in motion in South Africa. However, continued efforts are necessary to ensure the realization of the ultimate objective, namely the eradication of apartheid. It is hoped that the current talks between the South African authorities and the African National Congress will lead to the removal of obstacles to negotiations, and to the adoption of a new Constitution that will guarantee the establishment of a democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

17. In that context, the Special Committee against Apartheid initiated proposals to the General Assembly on its policies towards South Africa, which were reflected in resolutions adopted in 1989 and 1990, as well as in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. It continued to monitor and analyse the important developments taking place in South Africa and the response of the international community. In promoting the maintenance of pressure on the South African Government, the Special Committee focused on activities that could have potential for influencing decision-making. It gave special emphasis to carefully targeted action against apartheid and to the promotion of a peaceful solution of the conflict in South Africa through negotiations. It also organized, sponsored and co-sponsored conferences, seminars and other meetings, promoted contacts with opponents of apartheid and assisted, within its means, the anti-apartheid movements both within and outside South Africa.

18. At its resumed session from 12 to 17 September 1990 to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa (A/44/960 and Add.1-3), the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/244, in which it called upon South Africa to establish a climate fully conducive to negotiations by taking the steps stipulated in the Declaration. It also called upon South Africa to take urgent action to end the current violence in South Africa and commended the African National Congress for initiating the talks with the South African regime and suspending its armed struggle.

19. The Special Committee availed itself of many opportunities to draw the attention of the international community to the situation in South Africa and to the resistance of individuals and organizations to apartheid. It also organized visits, meetings and events to encourage and generate support, moral as well as material, to anti-apartheid forces and to victims of apartheid.

20. In addition to the annual report of the Special Committee, 1/ other reports were submitted this year to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. A report of the Secretary-General on concerted international action for the elimination of apartheid included information on action taken by Governments with respect to measures to isolate the South African Government and induce it to bring about a peaceful and speedy end to apartheid (A/45/637).

21. A second report of the Secretary-General examined the status of the monitoring of sanctions against South Africa carried out by the United Nations system, by Governments and by intergovernmental organizations (A/45/670). It also surveyed the mechanisms adopted by non-governmental organizations to monitor the implementation of sanctions in their respective countries.

22. Another report of the Secretary-General dealt with the measures that had been adopted by Member States to restrict trade credit for South African trade, as well as action undertaken by the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations concerning financial pressure on South Africa (A/45/539). The report also provided a brief review of South Africa's role in the international financial system, explaining the nature and scale of its dependence on external sources of finance.

23. In its annual report, the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa stressed the fact that despite the progress made in South Africa during the past year, the need for the international community to apply pressure was still compelling. The Intergovernmental Group also believes that those positive developments which have taken place in South Africa since its last report could not have been achieved without the pressure applied by the international community on South Africa, including the oil embargo. 2/

24. The report submitted by the Commission Against Apartheid in Sports recognized that certain progress has been achieved in South Africa in bringing about the organization of sports on a non-racial basis. The Commission felt that the sports boycott and other sanctions must be maintained until profound and irreversible changes had taken place in South Africa. The Commission also considered that intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Council of Europe and the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa, should be consulted and encouraged to provide effective assistance to non-racial sports bodies in organizing new and non-racial sports events in South Africa, thus contributing to the elimination of apartheid. It also urged all those States that had signed the international Convention against Apartheid in Sports and not ratified it, to ratify it, and all those States that had not signed the Convention to do so as soon as possible. 3/

25. The Special Committee also held meetings on the following international days to mark important dates in the fight against the apartheid regime and to rally support for that struggle: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March); International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June); International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa (9 August); and Day of Solidarity with the South African Political Prisoners (11 October). It also organized on 22 June 1990, a special meeting to hear Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress and held consultations with him, and other South African anti-apartheid leaders to assess developments in South Africa.

26. The Special Committee and the Centre Against Apartheid also held consultations in Geneva from 18 to 19 October 1990 with non-governmental organizations, anti-apartheid movements and special guests from South Africa. The participants in the consultations agreed on a plan of action focusing on the dissemination of information; on support for the creation of a climate of free political activity in South Africa and on the maintenance of sanctions and other measures to ensure the speedy end of apartheid.

27. The Special Committee also organized a Regional Seminar on East Asian Action against Apartheid in Tokyo from 23 to 25 January 1990. At its concluding session, the Seminar adopted an appeal for action urging the international community, particularly the countries of Eastern Asia, to take individual or collective measures in support of the fundamental principles and guidelines contained in the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid.

28. The Special Committee also, during the period under review, in co-operation with the Swedish Sports Federation, the Swedish National Olympic Committee, the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee and the International Campaign against Apartheid in Sports, organized the Fourth International Conference against Apartheid in Sports in Stockholm from 4 to 6 September 1990. A Declaration on International Action against Apartheid in Sports was adopted, which called for a continuation of the boycott of apartheid in sports until the genuine representatives of the people of South Africa judge that the process of transition is both profound and irreversible.

29. The Centre Against Apartheid and the United Nations Department of Public Information jointly produced a revised Travelling Exhibit, taking into account the new situation and developments taking place in South Africa. The Travelling Exhibit is serving as a focal point for information activities to be undertaken by the United Nations information centres in various cities of the world, particularly capitals of countries that maintain economic and other relations with South Africa. The Travelling Exhibit was shown in 1989 in New York, Geneva, Paris and Brussels and in 1990 in Frankfurt and Madrid. It is also planned to be shown in 1991 in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

30. The activities of the Centre and the Special Committee against Apartheid contributed to the United Nations action on racism and human rights. They had an impact, in the United Nations system and outside, in highlighting issues such as social responsibility of transnational corporations, the Olympic principle of non-racism in sports, cultural isolation of South Africa, torture and capital punishment.

C. Commission on Human Rights

31. The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, considered the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1991/43), in accordance with Commission resolution 1990/13.

32. The Commission adopted, without a vote, resolution 1991/11 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade in which it invited all Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils and urged all States and international organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 (A/39/167-E/1983/33 and Add.1-2) not yet undertaken, and of the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47 of 30 November 1987.

33. In the resolution, the Commission decided to give thematic consideration each year to a selected topic within the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 mentioned above and decided that the topic for 1992 would be "Treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa, particularly women and children". The Commission also decided that the topic for 1993 would be "Global survey on the extent of dissemination of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination".

34. The Commission took note with satisfaction in that resolution of the report on the seminar on the political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, held at Geneva from 10 to 14 December 1990 (E/CN.4/1991/63), and requested the Secretary-General to give it wide distribution among Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; it also requested the Secretary-General to organize in 1991 a meeting of representatives of national institutions and organizations promoting tolerance and harmony and combating racism and racial discrimination with a view to exchanging experience on the promotion of such objectives, which was scheduled for 1990.

35. In the same resolution, the Commission also recommended that the General Assembly take appropriate steps, in due course, to launch a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to begin in 1993.

36. In addition to its specific consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, the Commission, at its forty-seventh session, dealt with other topics with direct bearing on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. The question of violations of human rights in southern Africa was one such subject which the Commission considered in particular in relation to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/CN.4/1991/19), as well as the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1991/9). Reference may also be made to resolution 1991/18 on "Detention, torture and other inhuman treatment of children in South Africa".

37. The Commission also dealt with the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to colonial and racist regimes in southern Africa, and in that connection it had before it an updated report by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/13 and Add.1). Two resolutions were adopted on this matter, resolutions 1991/9 and 1991/17.

38. Furthermore, the Commission dealt with the status of the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and considered the report of the Group of Three established under article IX of the Convention (E/CN.4/1991/42). The Commission adopted resolution 1991/10 on this matter.

39. In another resolution, the Commission welcomed the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, urged all States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority; called upon the Secretary-General to assume an active role in disseminating information on, and promoting, the International Convention through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the Advisory Services Programme and in cooperation with interested United Nations bodies; and decided to include in the agenda of the forty-eighth session the item "Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers".

D. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

40. The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its thirty-sixth session in 1983 decided, as its contribution to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to entrust a Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decade, with special emphasis on the progress, if any, during the first and second half of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

41. At its forty-second session, the Subcommission examined the question of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and discussed the recommendations contained in the final study by the Special Rapporteur (A/45/525). The Subcommission adopted two resolutions on this subject. In resolution 1990/1, it emphasized the obligation of the international community to take urgent measures to eradicate apartheid completely, and to combat all other forms of racism and racial discrimination, including those practised against indigenous peoples, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups in society.

42. The Subcommission confirmed the importance, in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, of a complementarity of economic, social, education and information measures at the national level, including legislative, administrative and penal measures, and of measures taken at the international level; it further recognized the important role that could be played in that regard by the Subcommission, as well as the need for more effective coordination between the Centre for Human Rights and operational activities for development. In the same resolution, the Subcommission recommended that the General Assembly should take appropriate steps, in due course, to launch a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

in 1993; it requested the Secretary-General to organize, at the forty-third session of the Subcommission, a joint meeting for one day with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; it also requested the Secretary-General to consider ways and means necessary to respond to urgent situations and new trends involving racism or racial discrimination in any part of the world, and to prepare an outline, for consideration by the Subcommission at its forty-third session, of possible activities for increasing the effectiveness of United Nations action to combat racism and racial discrimination.

43. By its resolution 1990/2, the Subcommission expressed again its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur for his valuable, wide-ranging and useful study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the first Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and decided to transmit the recommendations contained in his study, as revised in the light of the discussion in the Subcommission, to the Secretary-General so that they might be taken into account in further efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination.

44. In the same resolution, the Subcommission requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of replies obtained from Governments, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as from non-governmental organizations, an overview of current trends of racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia directed against ethnic, national, religious and linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups, as well as of measures taken by Governments against those phenomena and to submit the overview for consideration by the Subcommission at its forty-third session.

E. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

45. The Committee at its thirty-eighth session, held at Geneva from 6 to 24 August 1991, took a number of decisions relating to its future work under its agenda item on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In particular, the Committee agreed to request the Secretary-General to arrange a one-day joint meeting in August 1991 between members of the Committee and members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The purpose of the meeting would be to exchange views on the prevention of racial discrimination. Discussions at the meeting were to be based upon written contributions prepared in advance by selected participants to reflect past experience in the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and review particular problems. Two such problems were identified. One was the conflict between the right to protection from racial discrimination and certain other fundamental rights and freedoms. The other was the question of racial discrimination in relation to the distinction between citizens and non-citizens. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss the programme for the joint meeting with the Chairman of the Subcommission.

46. With regard to the future, the Committee noted that the Second Decade was due to terminate in 1993, so that consideration must soon be given to whatever programme was to follow. The Committee had, for 20 years, played a central part in assembling and evaluating experience in this field and was ready to play an active part in the remainder of the Second Decade and in any successive programme. The Committee was of the opinion that any future programme should concentrate on the universalization of action. In the first place, there should be greater effort to secure universal accession to the Convention; in the second place, the Committee should try to secure universality of implementation.

47. Finally, the Committee discussed and welcomed the compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination prepared under the Decade's programme and the intention to prepare model legislation against racism and racial discrimination. The Committee's discussion on the Decade is contained in its report (A/45/443) which was placed before the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

48. At its thirty-ninth session, held at Geneva from 4 to 22 March 1991, the Committee continued its discussion of its contribution to the Second Decade against Racism and Racial Discrimination and decided to continue its deliberations at its fortieth session scheduled to be held from 5 to 23 August 1991.

F. Group of Three under the Apartheid Convention

49. The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1973, entered into force in July 1976. As at 31 December 1990, there were 88 States Parties to the Convention.

50. In accordance with article IX of the Convention, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights is authorized to appoint a group consisting of three members of the Commission, who are also representatives of States Parties to the Convention, to consider reports submitted by States Parties in accordance with article VII. The Group consisted of Ethiopia, Mexico and the Philippines. The Group, which met one week prior to the Commission's forty-seventh session, considered reports submitted by Panama and Bolivia. It also considered actions of transnational corporations operating in South Africa, in accordance with Commission resolution 1990/12. The Group submitted a report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1991/41).

G. Division for the Advancement of Women

51. The Division for the Advancement of Women is preparing a report concerning the implementation and monitoring of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in relation to women and children

living under apartheid, to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

52. The purpose of the report is to examine the extent to which apartheid, as a system of differentiation based on differences of race and/or colour, has affected the legal status of women and their participation in economic life, especially African women. Special emphasis is given to the legal and economic status of all women relative to men irrespective of race, and within that, further factors of differentiation in female status among various ethnic or racial groups.

H. Coordinating activities of the Second Decade

53. The General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 45/105, noted and commended the efforts made to coordinate all the programmes currently under implementation by the United Nations system that relate to the objectives of the Second Decade, and encouraged the Coordinator for the Second Decade to continue his efforts in that respect. Pursuant to his mandate, the Coordinator has initiated and maintained contacts at the senior level within the various offices of the United Nations with a view to coordinating the activities already under way or planned, and identifying areas in which new initiatives might be taken.

Inter-agency consultations

54. In order to improve coordination, the Coordinator convened, on 17 May 1990, a first inter-agency consultation on the coordination of activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. A wide range of United Nations offices and specialized agencies were invited to participate in the Consultation. Representatives from the Centre against Apartheid, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization liaison office in Geneva, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the Centre for Human Rights participated in the Consultation. The discussion focused around the following four points:

(a) Review of specific activities to combat racism and racial discrimination in the period 1990-1993;

(b) Suggestions of unexplored areas where activities or programmes could be initiated;

(c) Suggestions for activities which could be carried out jointly in cooperation with the various bodies or Secretariat units;

(d) Suggestions for improving coordination and cooperation in the future.

55. In opening the discussion, the Coordinator reviewed past and upcoming activities of the Centre for Human Rights in implementing the programme of activities of the Second Decade. He also pointed out that racism and racial discrimination were relevant to all sectors of United Nations activity. Racism was a negative element hindering the full achievement of the technical programmes of the United Nations. Such programmes could not be fully successful in a world where millions of human beings were denied full participation in the benefits of science and technology by reason of their race. Scientific and technological progress was also hindered because many gifted individuals were excluded from education and access to scientific careers by reason of race. The Second Decade had been proclaimed by the General Assembly as a vehicle for bringing about the end of racism, and the General Assembly placed great store in the effectiveness of enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system as a means of increasing the impact of each area's struggle against racism.

56. During the discussion participants reviewed the activities of their respective organizations in the struggle against racism. The desirability of improved communication and coordination between the separate agencies and bodies within their respective mandates was recognized, and the idea of periodic meetings of consultation was welcomed. The following suggestions for further discussion regarding improving coordination were made:

(a) The joint organization of seminars and research projects on the impact of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, such as the rights of migrant workers and their families, minorities, refugees, cultural and economic rights, and other topics;

(b) The establishment of a joint United Nations database on the research, documentation and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. This computerized data bank would be open for on-line access to the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats of specialized agencies, permanent missions, Governments, universities, the press and the general public. It would facilitate the coordination of activities and ease access to information, thereby increasing the impact of the several activities;

(c) The designation of focal points within each secretariat unit to maintain contact on issues relating to racism and racial discrimination as a method of improving practical cooperation and advance planning in this area;

(d) The organization of a meeting of the staff responsible for activities related to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid in the United Nations and the specialized agencies, on an annual basis, to discuss plans and projects, avoid duplication and improve mutual assistance.

57. A second inter-agency consultation on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 19 April 1991. Building on the suggestions of the first inter-agency consultation, the second consultation will have the following general headings for discussion:

(a) Review of specific activities to combat racial discrimination and in particular apartheid in the period 1991-1993;

(b) Suggestions of unexplored areas where activities or programmes could be initiated;

(c) Suggestions for activities which could be carried out jointly in cooperation with the various bodies or secretariat units;

(d) Suggestions for improving coordination and cooperation in the future.

58. Two substantive aspects will be focused upon: the new and emerging forms of racism, such as against migrant workers, minorities, non-citizens, indigenous populations, religious groups and each Organization's or Unit's response; and information and educational activities especially focused on the promotion of tolerance and racial harmony.

59. In discussing these matters, the potential contribution of each agency to the remaining items on the programme of activities for the second half of the Second Decade will be explored.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

60. The Coordinator for Decade-related activities, at meetings with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the Committee's thirty-eighth (August 1990) and thirty-ninth sessions (March 1991), discussed at length the current dimensions of racism in the world, United Nations activities against racial discrimination and, in particular, the activities of the Second Decade, the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and possible ways of improving the impact of the Organization's activities against racial discrimination.

61. The Coordinator, in addressing the Committee, placed their activities in the overall international context. Internationally, a complex and sophisticated system had evolved, in which the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was a centrepiece, while other organs, such as the Subcommission, made important contributions. It was beyond doubt that the role of international organizations in fostering national action against racial discrimination was significant. Improving the contribution of international organizations to the elimination of racial discrimination could be viewed under two headings: (a) improving consultation and coordination between international organs, and (b) improving the national impact of international activities. The Coordinator made suggestions regarding the study by the Committee of specific themes relating to racism; possible ways of improving the submission of information; and cooperation between the Committee, the Subcommission and the Human Rights Committee. In this latter context, he raised the possibility of joint meetings on common topics as a way of improving the work of both bodies.

62. The Coordinator also discussed with the Committee possible contributions by the Committee to the planning of the proposed Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to the World Conference for Human Rights scheduled for 1993. The Coordinator also dealt with suggestions for improving the impact on the national level of international activities against discrimination. These included ways of making easily available on the national level all Committee documents relating to that particular country, establishing contacts with national bodies dealing with discrimination, and setting up of national commissions and the appointment of national ombudsman against discrimination.

63. The Committee at its thirty-eighth session took a number of decisions relating to its future work under its agenda item on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In particular, the Committee agreed to request the Secretary-General to arrange a one-day joint meeting in August 1991 between members of the Committee and members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The purpose of the meeting would be to exchange views on the prevention of racial discrimination. Discussions at the meeting were to be based upon written contributions prepared in advance by selected participants to reflect past experience in the Committee and review particular problems. Two such problems were identified. One was the conflict between the right to protection from racial discrimination and certain other fundamental rights and freedoms. The other was the question of racial discrimination in relation to the distinction between citizens and non-citizens. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss the programme for the joint meeting with the Chairman of the Subcommission.

64. With regard to the future, the Committee noted that the Second Decade was due to terminate in 1993 so that consideration must soon be given to whatever programme was to follow. The Committee had, for 20 years, played a central part in assembling and evaluating experience in this field and was ready to play an active part in the remainder of the Second Decade and in any successive programme. The Committee was of the opinion that any future programme should concentrate upon the universalization of action. In the first place, there should be greater effort to secure universal accession to the Convention. In the second place, the Committee would try to see universality of implementation.

65. Finally, at that session, the Committee discussed and welcomed the compilation of additional legislations against racial discrimination prepared under the Decade's programme and the intention to prepare model legislation against racism and racial discrimination.

66. At its thirty-ninth session the Committee continued its consideration of these issues and decided to continue its deliberations at its fortieth session in August 1991.

Meeting of consultation with non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements

67. The Coordinator of Decade-related activities addressed the meeting of consultations with non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements organized by the Centre against Apartheid from 18 to 19 October 1990. The Coordinator underlined the importance of the promotion of equal enjoyment of human rights to the United Nations human rights programme and the need to act energetically against discrimination in all its forms, especially racial discrimination. The abhorrent existence of apartheid, as the most clearly institutionalized form of racism, was the object of concerted action by the United Nations to bring it to an end. The Coordinator reviewed the wide range of United Nations activities against racial discrimination including the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on South Africa, and the activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Coordinator underlined the key role played by non-governmental organizations in the activities of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights and in particular for equality and against discrimination.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

68. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 1991 a round-table discussion was organized at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Round Table was moderated by Ms. Rukia Hanna-Hussen, Centre for Human Rights, and included the following panelists: Agha Shahi, Chairman, Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Noureddine Hached, Permanent Observer of the Organization of African Unity; E. Houshmand, Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Coordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; K. Chamari, International Commission of Jurists, and Dimza Pityana, Secretary for Human Rights and Peace, World Alliance of the YWCA. The statement read on behalf of the Coordinator by his representative focused on the activities of the United Nations since its establishment aimed at eliminating racism and racial discrimination, and focused in particular on the programme of activities of the Second Decade.

Other activities

69. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination is a key element in the overall United Nations human rights programme. In the field of publications, Fact Sheet No. 5 contains the results of the Global Consultation on Racism and Racial Discrimination, Fact Sheet No. 9 deals with the rights of indigenous populations and a fact sheet is being prepared on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In addition, two new publications have been prepared and will be available shortly; the "Global compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination" (HR/PUB/1990/8) and the study entitled "The first twenty years: progress report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination".

I. Seminars and training courses

1. Seminar on the political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid

70. The Programme of Action, as developed by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983, called for the organization of a seminar on political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors leading to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolutions 1987/12 and 1988/16, on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, requested the Secretary-General to organize such a seminar.

71. Pursuant to the Commission's request, the Seminar was organized by the Centre for Human Rights and held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, from 10 to 14 December 1990. The agenda of the Seminar was as follows:

I. Causes and current manifestations of racism:

(a) Historical factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination;

(b) Economic factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination;

(c) Political factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination;

(d) Social and cultural factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination.

II. Racism today: overview and interrelationship of causes and manifestations.

III. Conclusions and recommendations; action at the national and international levels.

72. Under all items, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid were to be examined from the perspective of the following vulnerable groups:

(a) Ethnic and racial groups;

(b) Indigenous populations;

(c) Migrant workers and their families;

(d) Religious groups;

(e) Women.

73. The Centre for Human Rights invited the following five experts to lecture, lead discussions, prepare background papers and to act as resource persons: Tatjana Ansbach (Germany), Asbjorn Eide (Norway), Paul Gordon Lauren (United States), Purificación Quisumbing (Philippines) and Henry V. H. Sekyi (Ghana). In addition, the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Agha Shahi (Pakistan), was invited to participate in the Seminar as an expert. At its opening session, he was elected Chairman of the Seminar.

74. Participants and alternates from the following countries attended the Seminar in their individual capacity: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia.

75. Observers from Governments, representatives of concerned specialized agencies, United Nations organs and units of the United Nations Secretariat, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations took part.

76. The Coordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination addressed the seminar on the overall efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and racial discrimination with specific focus on apartheid. He pointed out that in spite of the undertaking of Member States, as expressed in the United Nations Charter and the numerous international declarations and treaties effected to ensure the equal rights of all, discrimination was unfortunately still very much a part of the lives of many millions of people throughout the world. He referred in particular to serious discrimination against immigrants, migrant workers, gypsies, indigenous populations and minorities, and to the rise of anti-semitism and xenophobia in the world.

77. The Coordinator stated that since the very first years of the United Nations the policy of racial separation known as apartheid has been the object of increasing concern. Apartheid constituted the systematic denial to the majority of the population of South Africa of the most elemental human rights inherent in human dignity, and it also posed a very real and menacing danger for regional stability and peace. With great courage, the people of South Africa continued to demonstrate their inherent dignity through their continuous struggle against that system.

78. One important element in bringing about change in societies in general was the adoption of anti-discrimination laws and their enforcement. This was important both because respect for human dignity required it and because the law and its enforcement were powerful tools of education. Greater attention must be paid in the future to education and the creation of a climate of mutual tolerance and understanding between different communities. In this context, the Coordinator emphasized the value of the different cultures of the globe and said that each was an important part of the common heritage of all. Sensitivity training in the early school years and the broader-based community

action programmes were important tools to achieve that objective. Here, experience had shown the valuable contribution that community relations commissions could have, and their widespread use should be recommended.

79. The Coordinator further stated that consideration might be given to setting up community relations commissions not only in areas where tensions had actually manifested themselves but also as a general mechanism in all communities. Such commissions could reinforce existing inter-group understanding and identify at an early stage the seeds of future tensions so as to act preventively. In addition, constant research into the continuously evolving situation in each country would help in achieving a better understanding of the processes leading to tension or contributing to tolerance. Education in the broad sense based on this research could help diverse sectors of a society better understand their relations with each other. Many false notions of one community with regard to another could thus be eliminated. In addition, a national inventory of existing and potential problem areas could be maintained and specific action in the areas of immigrants, migrant workers, minorities, indigenous populations and other vulnerable groups could be undertaken. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a national ombudsman in the field of racial discrimination.

80. The report of the Seminar, contained in document E/CN.4/1991/63 and Add.1, will be available to the Council.

2. Other seminars, training courses or workshops

81. The issues relating to combating racism and racial discrimination have been emphasized through the numerous workshops, regional and national training courses, seminars and other events held within the framework of the advisory services and external relations components of the work programme of the Centre for Human Rights over the last few years. Such concerns will continue to be emphasized in the following seminars, workshops, regional and national training courses scheduled to take place in 1991: training courses, one in English and one in French, on human rights and the administration of justice for officials from African countries (to be held at San Remo, Italy); the Regional Workshop for Africa on International Human Rights Standards and the Administration of Justice (Cairo); the Seminar on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris); workshops on human rights teaching and education for Portuguese-speaking countries (Lisbon); two national training courses for administrators of justice (Brazil and Venezuela, respectively); and the European Workshop on the Implementation of International Standards (Barcelona). Finally, a meeting of experts to review the experiences of countries in the operation of schemes of international self-government, for indigenous populations is scheduled for autumn 1991 in Greenland, and it will focus extensively on issues of discrimination.

J. Plan of activities for the Second Decade

1. Plan of activities for the first half of the Second Decade, 1985-1989

82. In its resolution 45/105, the General Assembly urgently requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of the activities proposed for the first half of the Decade which had not yet been undertaken. As reflected in the Secretary-General's report submitted to the General Assembly (A/45/443), various activities of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade have so far been implemented. Particular consideration was given to the organization of international seminars pursuant to paragraph 53 of the Programme of Action. With regard to studies to be prepared by the Secretary-General or by the relevant human rights bodies, reference may be made to the study on the role of private group action submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions (A/41/550, A/43/631 and A/44/575), the final study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1) and to the publication of the "Global compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination". (HR/PUB/1990/8).

83. In addition, the Secretary-General is preparing model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination. A draft text of this legislation will be submitted to the Committee on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for observation and comments. It is also the Secretary-General's intention to proceed as rapidly as resources permit with the preparation of a handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racism and racial discrimination through a consultant, and to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment, as it affects the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, and to submit the specific recommendations for implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination.

2. Plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade, 1990-1993

84. In its resolution 42/47, the General Assembly approved the proposed plan of activities for the period 1990 to 1993 set out in the annex to that resolution, and invited the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of those activities, and to accord the highest priority, in executing the plan of activities, to measures for combating apartheid.

85. The following activities are called for during the biennium 1990-1991:

(a) Global survey of the extent to which the children of migrant workers are able to receive education in their mother tongue;

(b) Meeting of experts to review national experience in the operation of schemes of local, internal self-government for indigenous populations (scheduled for the fall of 1991);

(c) Expert study on the impact of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (see General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) in providing guarantees of equality to persons belonging to minorities;

(d) Regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(e) Seminar on community relations commissions and their functions.

The following activities are called for during the biennium 1992-1993:

(a) Round table of experts to discuss the preparation of teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(b) Issuance in three additional languages of the handbook of recourse procedures available to victims of racism and racial discrimination;

(c) Two regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(d) International campaign on the main obstacles to the full eradication of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and on ways and means of bringing about the early disappearance of these scourges;

(e) Study on the treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa and Namibia, particularly women and children;

(f) Global survey on the extent of dissemination of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

86. The implementation of the various activities of the Programme of Action for the second half of the Second Decade is of the highest importance and every effort is being made, to the extent permitted by available resources, to implement each activity as scheduled. The issues faced in implementing this programme were reflected in the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1990 in document E/1990/50, where it was stated that "the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination for the years 1990-1993 was incorporated into the regular work programme of the Centre by the General Assembly in resolution 42/47. It was not accompanied by any increase in regular resources (para. 31).

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

A. Belgium

1. Measures taken to combat apartheid

87. The Belgian Government has long condemned the apartheid system as a violation of the basic principles of respect for human rights. Belgium calls for a peaceful solution, condemning any resort to the use of force. The abolition of apartheid and the creation of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa should be attainable through dialogue among all parties concerned.

88. Belgium has never been in favour of the application of comprehensive economic sanctions or a total embargo; in no way does it wish to contribute to the creation of economic chaos. It prefers the application of selective means of bringing pressure to bear, which should be seen as so many political signals, indicating that its policy is capable of evolving along with the evolution of the political situation in South Africa.

89. Since 1963, Belgium has been implementing an embargo on exports of arms and munitions to South Africa. In 1977, it suspended the cultural agreement. It has restricted its official relations, political, cultural and scientific as well as sporting. It has frozen official trade relations, prospecting, assistance with investments and the conclusion of financial framework agreements.

90. Since the institution of a community policy of the Twelve with respect to South Africa, Belgium has always called for new measures, both restrictive and positive, to be adopted by common consent among the Twelve. The ministers for foreign affairs of the Twelve took action first in 1985, and again in 1986; the release of Nelson Mandela did not immediately change the position of the European Community. On 11 February 1990, the ministers decided to strengthen positive measures in favour of the black population and to initiate and intensify contacts with all political forces in South Africa. The Dublin European Council in June 1990 endorsed this position by affirming its readiness to reconsider a gradual relaxation, so that the process of change might continue on the right course. Likewise, the Rome European Council on 14 and 15 December 1990 responded positively to the legislative initiatives relating to the dismantling of the legal framework of apartheid by lifting the ban on new investments in order to improve the economic and social situation of the South African population.

2. Measures in favour of vulnerable groups

91. The Government states that in order to protect vulnerable groups against discrimination, emphasis should be placed on positive action for integration undertaken at the level of primary and secondary schooling.

92. In Brussels, intercultural education experiments have been under way for a number of years in a number of primary and secondary schools. They are meant principally for children of Moroccan immigrants, who are particularly numerous in some districts. The aim is to preserve the children's awareness of their original culture, while promoting their integration into Belgian society by encouraging intercultural dialogue between Belgian and foreign children.

93. Among the positive actions taken is the establishment of "priority education zones" within which a particular effort is made to meet the educational needs of disadvantaged school populations. Some of these overlap with zones where the immigrant population (especially Turkish and Moroccan) is particularly large.

3. Education, instruction, training and seminars

94. While programmes do not include specific instruction in combating racism and racial discrimination, initiatives to this end are taken within certain courses. Teachers of religion and non-sectarian ethics incorporate this concern in their lessons, and the training and refresher training programmes addressed to them also include this approach.

95. In addition, for more than a year cooperation has been under way between history teachers and the Auschwitz Foundation with a view to integrating into their courses components on the historical manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. Exhibitions have been organized on this topic in a number of school establishments.

96. At the primary education level, specific measures have been taken to combat racism and racial discrimination, topics that are also dealt with in courses on religion, non-sectarian ethics and history, and above all in the programmes on civics, education for life and social training.

97. Among measures taken to promote the integration of children of immigrants into the society in which they live, a project entitled "Instruction in intercultural encounters" has been under way since the 1982/1983 school year; special standards have been set, where necessary, in courses attended by the children of immigrants; reception and integration measures have been instituted; in order to help immigrant pupils encountering language problems and difficulties in school, teachers from the country of origin are made available to certain schools with a large attendance by foreign pupils; methodologies and special teaching tools for counselling and pyscho-medico-social guidance, have been devised to meet the specific needs of the multinational school population.

98. At the level of secondary education, the following initiatives should be mentioned:

(a) The establishment of a first-year B course, a variant of the first-year course, designed to provide (in neighbourhoods where there is a relatively high concentration of foreigners) an appropriate reception for children of immigrants in order to offer them education that is better suited to their specific needs;

(b) The European Community pilot experiment, which has been under way in a number of schools since the 1982-1983 school year under the title "Mother tongue and culture in secondary education", coordinated by the Provincial Reception Service for Immigrant Workers of Limbourg (Provinciale Dienst voor Onthaal vun Gastarbeiders - Limburg");

(c) Article 1.7 of the Act of 29 June 1983 on the obligation to attend school, which provides that minors of foreign nationality immigrating at the same time as the persons vested with parental authority over them shall be subject to the provisions with respect to the obligation to attend school from the sixtieth day following that on which the above-mentioned persons were registered in the register of foreigners or the register of inhabitants of a commune.

99. Lastly, attention is drawn to a number of initiatives taken in official Dutch-language education which may be included within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination:

(a) The Office for International Education (Dienst voor internationale opvoeding). This service, established within the Ministry of National Education, is responsible for implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade;

(b) Scholastic Planning Commissions. These Commissions will be invited to pay attention to the objectives of the Second Decade;

(c) Study and refresher seminars (for teachers). As in the past, teachers will attend refresher courses which cover, from both scientific and didactic standpoints, the problems of racism and racial discrimination that they may encounter in the course of their work as teachers;

(d) The Inter-Disciplinary Inspection Commission. The role of the Commission is to integrate the concept of international education more fully into curricula. The objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade will be placed on the agenda of the Commission so that, after examining them, it can formulate proposals with a view to their attainment;

(e) The supplementary training projects. The aim of these projects is to enable serving teachers to specialize in a given area. Interested teachers can obtain training leave for this purpose.

Subjects such as international education, which also cover human rights and the effort to combat racism and racial discrimination, are regularly referred to in these programmes;

(f) Radio and television. Those in charge of school broadcasts have been invited to take the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade into account in them;

(g) Non-governmental organizations, official information offices. The topics of racism and racial discrimination will henceforth be expressly included in the exchanges that are already taking place between the educational system and a number of official information offices, such as that of the United Nations, as well as a number of non-governmental organizations.

100. The Belgian Institute for Information and Documentation, for its part, reports that it is disseminating, both by mail and by distribution at its information centre, an information sheet No. 1, "Mechanism of human rights", and a work entitled "Belgium and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948-1988".

B. Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

101. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has recently passed a number of acts, particular provisions of which are designed to provide an effective safeguard for the equal rights of citizens of the Republic regardless of their race or nationality, to prevent discrimination, and to lay a firm foundation for the further harmonization of relations between nationalities. Thus the Act on Public Discussion of Important Matters of State of the Byelorussian SSR, passed on 2 February 1988, secures for citizens of the Republic free participation in the discussion of important matters of State and public life.

102. Under the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR (art. 34), Byelorussian citizens of different races and nationalities are guaranteed equal rights. The opportunity to use their mother tongue and the languages of other peoples of the USSR freely is an important element of citizens' equal rights. An absolute pre-condition for such equality of rights is the opportunity to study the mother tongue and other languages freely.

103. The right of citizens to vote and to be elected is spelt out and guaranteed in the Act on Elections of People's Deputies of the Byelorussian SSR and the Act on Elections of People's Deputies to Local Soviets of People's Deputies of the Byelorussian SSR, adopted on 27 October 1989. Under these Acts, any direct or indirect limitation of the electoral rights of citizens of the Byelorussian SSR on grounds of origin, social or property status, race or nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, length of residence or type and nature of occupation is prohibited.

104. The active and positive processes of restructuring that are taking place in our society are called upon to bring out the humanistic nature of socialist society to the fullest possible extent and in all its essential aspects - economic, socio-political and moral. In the context of further democratization of socialist society, intensified socialist self-management by the people and strengthening of the State based on law, paramount importance attaches to the development and improvement of relations between nationalities - the strengthening of fraternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR, their mutual spiritual enrichment and the all-round development of the Soviet nations.

105. On this basis the Byelorussian SSR will be taking further legislative and other measures to give effect to the main provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

C. China

106. As a signatory State of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, China has been faithfully implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and has made its own contribution towards the elimination of racism and apartheid in the world.

107. At the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chinese representative stated that, in order to force the South African authorities to mend their ways and in support of the struggle of the people of South Africa for racial equality and fundamental human rights, the international community should harmonize its assistance to the national liberation movements and front-line States engaged in the struggle against apartheid and take more effective measures to put pressure on South Africa.

108. On 22 March, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Premier Li Peng cabled his support to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid.

109. On 21 March, Qi Huaiyuan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressing a diplomatic gathering to celebrate the independence of Namibia, pointed out that this victory of the people of Namibia was bound to inspire the anti-apartheid struggle of the South African and African peoples. China was convinced that the aim of creating a new South Africa, unified, democratic and non-racist, would ultimately be achieved.

110. At the ceremony for the independence of Namibia, China's Special Envoy, Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian, reaffirmed to the Vice-Chairman of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, that China firmly supports

the just struggle of the South African people against apartheid until final victory is achieved. During the third meeting of the seventh session of the National People's Congress, Foreign Minister Qian Qizhen held a press conference at which he made the statement that China welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela by the South African authorities, welcomed the announcement that the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania had been allowed to resume public activities, and also welcomed the promise by the South African authorities to hold dialogue with both bodies. But he said that the basic conditions had not been met and that the South African Government had not abandoned apartheid. Therefore, China could not envisage establishing any relations with South Africa.

111. China also welcomed the South African President's announcement to lift the state of emergency throughout the country, except for Natal province, and the release of 48 political prisoners, since those measures helped to create an atmosphere for negotiation in South Africa. The South African authorities should as soon as possible lift the state of emergency in Natal province, release all the remaining political prisoners and dismantle apartheid itself. China also welcomed the move by the Parliament of South Africa to eliminate segregation in public places and urged the South African authorities to abolish all its apartheid laws as soon as possible.

112. China's permanent representative to the United Nations addressed the General Assembly during its consideration of the apartheid policy of the South African authorities, calling upon the international community not to relent in putting pressure on South Africa to force it to abandon the system of apartheid. He said that China would continue to give steadfast support to the South African people in their great enterprise to uproot apartheid.

D. Ecuador

113. The Government of Ecuador states that, as part of its foreign policy principles, Ecuador has, in national and international forums, repeatedly expressed the conviction of its people and Government that all means of racial discrimination should be totally rejected and has supported all initiatives aimed at eliminating any form of discrimination whatsoever.

114. These basic principles include the self-determination of peoples, territorial integrity, the protection of natural resources, the complete realization of human rights and the exercise of full sovereignty. Ecuador has supported all initiatives relating to observance of these principles and has condemned all discriminatory acts or acts that undermine the full exercise of human rights.

115. In addition, Ecuador will continue to support the General Assembly resolutions urging States to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of

All Forms of Discrimination against Women, a legal instrument of the greatest significance at the international level for combating discrimination based on sex. Ecuador ratified the Convention on 19 October 1981. It will support resolutions and projects in keeping with its policy in favour of women and aimed at achieving benefits for women. It should be mentioned that Ecuador is currently a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

116. Regarding the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, article 19 of the Political Constitution establishes the guarantees offered to individuals by the State. Paragraph 6 refers to freedom of conscience and religion, individually or collectively, in public and in private. Further on, the same article stipulates "Persons can freely practise the faith that they profess, subject to the limitations prescribed by law to protect security, public morality or the fundamental rights of other persons".

117. The Government states that the global development strategy for the period 1989-1992 emphasizes rural development as an element in general economic recovery. In this context, it has been decided that peasants and food production require special attention in keeping with their significant contribution to the economy, despite the prevailing conditions.

118. In addition, the Government states that, in the context of development of the great majority of the indigenous population, the current Government recognizes that strengthening the national identity and furthering democratic, social, cultural and political life of the country necessarily means recognizing its pluri-cultural and multi-ethnic nature and formulating concrete policies to meet the people's demands.

119. Government action has concentrated on the following main areas:

(a) Establishment of an Office for Indigenous Affairs, attached to the Office of the President of the Republic;

(b) Provision of approximately 1 million hectares for the use of the indigenous population situated in the Amazon region. The region is settled by the Huaorani, Ashuar, Siona-Secoya, Quechua and Shuar peoples;

(c) Legal recognition of the indigenous organizations CONADE and ECUARUNARI;

(d) Appointment of a High-level Commission to analyse and seek solutions, together with the representatives of indigenous organizations, to the main demands raised in connection with the June 1990 indigenous mobilization.

120. The Government of Ecuador recognizes that the Independence of Namibia represents significant progress by the international community in the struggle to eliminate colonialism. Aware and civilized people throughout the world are demanding that the encouraging signs that have recently been seen should lead to the elimination of the aberrant system of apartheid and of other equally unacceptable practices.

121. Ecuador will support initiatives condemning the South African Government's practices of racial discrimination in all its forms. It will also support calls to the Pretoria regime to continue the dialogue with the leaders of the black community and to release political prisoners. Ecuador will also back all measures aimed at the permanent elimination of the system of racial discrimination.

E. Jamaica

122. The Government of Jamaica is in the process of considering legislation for implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Draft bills have been prepared for submission to the Legislation Committee of Jamaica's Cabinet.

F. Sweden

123. The Government of Sweden states that the Special Commission against Racism and Xenophobia, appointed by the Government in 1987, was directed to investigate what additional measures could be taken to combat racism and hostility to foreigners. The Commission completed its work in March 1989 and proposed in its final report, inter alia, that a direct ban on racist organizations should be introduced into Swedish legislation and that the idea of a law against ethnic discrimination in working life should be reconsidered.

124. On the basis of this report, the Government submitted a bill to Parliament in February 1990 which presented the Government's assessment of the existence of discrimination on ethnic grounds and of the need for measures designed to foster good ethnic relations.

125. In May 1990, the Government appointed a committee to study measures against ethnic discrimination, and a special expert was appointed. This expert was directed to consider the question of a special law against discrimination in working life and to present a proposal for such a law and also to review the Act to Counter Racial Discrimination. The Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination has in fact proposed that changes should be made in this Act so that it will address life in society in a broad sense and will not be confined specifically to working life, as at present.

126. The special expert has also been directed to investigate how protection against racist organizations can be further strengthened, while retaining respect for freedom of association. In this connection, the expert is to consider the appropriateness and formulation of some form of legislation which does not mean a direct ban on the actual existence of organizations, but is instead directed at individual behaviour.

127. The possibility of strengthening existing legislation so that the formation of, participation in and support for racist activities will become criminal offences is to be considered, with the object of improving the protection of society against racist activities. A prohibition on organizations, applying the emergency provisions in the Constitution, should only be considered if other alternatives are judged to be inadequate in providing effective protection against racist organizations.

128. In line with a government bill submitted in February 1990, Parliament has decided that special funds are to be allocated for development endeavours in the field of ethnic relations, in the schools and in teacher-training programmes, and that research in areas covering ethnic relations and discrimination on ethnic grounds should be encouraged and intensified.

129. In this bill, the Government states that the statistics concerning racist crime should be improved to make it possible to assess with some degree of certainty whether there are racist or xenophobic motives for criminal behaviour.

130. An ordinance issued in June 1990 has given the National Immigration Board greater possibilities to provide government support for specific immigrant projects designed to promote good ethnic relations and to strengthen immigration organizations.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. International Labour Organisation (ILO)

131. The International Labour Organisation reports that, as in previous years, it continues to monitor action taken against apartheid. ILO refers to the following reports, prepared by the Committee on Discrimination of the Governing Body of the ILO:

(a) Report entitled the "Application of the Declaration concerning Action against Apartheid in South Africa and Namibia", covering the effect to be given to the conclusions of the Committee on Action against Apartheid, adopted at the seventy-seventh (1990) session of the Conference (GB.248/CD/1/1);

(b) Report of the 4th meeting of the Group of Independent Experts to follow up and monitor the implementation of sanctions and other actions against apartheid (GB.248/CD/3/5);

(c) Report of the Committee on Action against Apartheid, Provisional Record No. 20, International Labour Conference, seventy-seventh session, 1990;

(d) Information supplied by Governments and by employers' and workers' organizations on action taken against apartheid, as well as activities of the Group of Independent Experts to follow up and monitor the implementation of sanctions and other action against apartheid (C.A./D.3).

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

132. The principal contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the international struggle against racism and racial discrimination is focused on southern Africa. This contribution comprises assistance to populations victimized or threatened by the policies of the Government of South Africa. Although, in principle, the extensive FAO programmes in the front-line States of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and in Lesotho and Swaziland, are also relevant, only those activities benefiting Namibia and the national liberation movements recognized by OAU and the United Nations are reviewed in the present submission.

133. In response to resolutions by its own governing bodies and by the United Nations General Assembly, FAO has extended material and technical assistance to every one of the national liberation movements that have been engaged in the struggle for the independence of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and in South Africa. With the attainment of independence by practically all these countries, the only national liberation movements now qualifying for FAO assistance are the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC).

134. FAO's programmes benefiting Namibia and the national liberation movements have consisted mainly of training, direct support for food production, sectoral surveys and policy analysis, and the conduct of occasional studies and dissemination of resulting information on those aspects of apartheid that have relevance to the mandate of the Organization. These activities have been funded not only by UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Namibia, but also by FAO's technical cooperation programme and other regular programme resources.

135. Training assistance has been given to enhance knowledge and skills in nutrition, child care, food storage and preservation, food technology, fisheries management, agricultural economics and other related subjects.

136. Support for food production has included assistance in the planning and establishment of farms, and the provision of inputs and general operation expenses for the development of the farms. Since 1979 FAO has been assisting the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania in the development of a farm at its settlement in Bagamoyo District in the United Republic of Tanzania. A similar project has been formulated for the African National Congress in the United Republic of Tanzania and is awaiting funding approval.

137. During the transitional period to Namibia's independence, FAO collaborated actively in the Rehabilitation and Settlement Programme for Namibia, coordinated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, under which the Organization implemented two projects funded under its Technical Cooperation Programme - one for the supply of seeds, handtools and other agricultural inputs, and the other providing the services of an expert to advise on the agricultural aspects of the Settlement Programme.

138. In April 1990, the Director-General of FAO approved emergency food aid equal to $US 5.5 million to provide relief to about 150,000 Namibian subsistence farmers affected by severe drought. At the request of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group and the Government Drought Committee, FAO fielded a crop assessment mission to Namibia during May 1990.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

139. The contribution of UNESCO to combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid is covered under the major programme area entitled "UNESCO's contribution to peace, human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination", which forms part of the third medium-term plan.

140. UNESCO will continue studies and research on prejudices and racism and will conduct activities to combat them throughout the period covered by the plan, which also includes a special project on the installation in South Africa of an egalitarian, non-racial society, free from apartheid and reconciled with itself.

1. Main achievements (1989-1990)

141. Studies on the effects of apartheid during the period 1986-1989 in the areas of UNESCO's competence have been published in collaboration with the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa (IDAF) in the form of an information brochure intended for wide dissemination: Subverting Apartheid: Education, Information and Culture under Emergency Rule (London, IDAF, 1990).

142. The Japanese version of Fighting Apartheid: A Cartoon History (UNESCO, 1988) also appeared in 1990. It was published in English by IDAF in 1987.

143. Mention may also be made of the five working groups on apartheid which met in 1989 and 1990, on the following subjects:

- Effects of the policy of destabilization of South Africa in the field of education, science and culture (Harare, Zimbabwe, 20-24 February 1989)
- Apartheid and the economy (Kingston, Jamaica, 24-28 April 1989)
- Apartheid and women (Caracas, Venezuela, 19-22 September 1989)
- Apartheid and culture (Dakar, Senegal, 27-30 November 1989)
- Apartheid and education (Harare, Zimbabwe, 8-9 January 1990)

144. In addition, an international expert meeting on diasporas was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 28 May to 1 June 1990. The participants studied the concept of diaspora in depth and analysed the nature and impact of diasporas of African, Indian and Chinese origin, geographical concentration, social and cultural cohesion, social mobility, political mobilization and interaction with the new environment and the emergence of a non-racist culture.

145. Lastly, contacts were initiated with the Centre for Human Rights and the Special Committee against Apartheid of the United Nations with a view to strengthening cooperation. The cooperation of these institutions was requested in implementing the activities provided for under the special project mentioned earlier on the installation in South Africa of an egalitarian, non-racial society free from apartheid and reconciled with itself.

2. Activities scheduled for 1991

146. In accordance with the approved programme and budget for 1990-1991, the following activities will be carried out:

(a) Synopsis of studies carried out by UNESCO on apartheid (publication and dissemination of a brochure);

(b) Studies and organization of a working group on alternative policies in an apartheid-free South Africa; in collaboration with the Pan African Social Prospects Centre, a meeting of a working group on access by Africans to science and technology (Porto Novo, Benin, September 1991);

(c) Consultations on religions and apartheid (in principle at Geneva in June 1991, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches);

(d) Workshop on questions of human rights in South Africa (meeting at Banjul, Gambia, in April 1991, in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights);

(e) Upgrading of skills and training of South African personnel (scholarships and study grants, secondment of research workers and students);

(f) Pilot project in southern Africa for the establishment of a documentation centre (contract with IDAF for feasibility study);

(g) Creation of a unit dealing with southern Africa within the Documentation Centre of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (contract with the Commission);

(h) A publication entitled Towards a new South Africa;

(i) Organization of a meeting in Malta during the first half of 1991 on migrants and the Europe of 1992 (under contract with the ISA Research Committee on Race, Ethnicity and Minority Relations);

(j) Support for the organization of a symposium on the decolonization of the mind in May 1991 at Amsterdam, Netherlands (contract with the Transnational Institute);

(k) Comparative research on the phenomena of discrimination in various regions.

147. With respect to the activities mentioned in subparagraph (b), (c), (d) and (g), UNESCO has invited the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre Against Apartheid of the United Nations to provide technical and financial contributions so that they can be implemented jointly. Good cooperation has already been established with the Centre for Human Rights, and the activities are prepared in consultation.

148. UNESCO also wishes to associate with the implementation of these activities the Centre and Special Committee against Apartheid, the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the regional intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations concerned.

3. Programme for 1992-1993

149. The UNESCO services are currently preparing the draft budget and programme for the biennium 1992-1993; this will be the second phase of the third medium-term plan (1990-1995). The draft (document 26C/5) will be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-sixth session in October 1991.

150. Where the special project on apartheid is concerned, working in close cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre and Special Committee against Apartheid of the United Nations, UNESCO will continue its forward-looking analysis of the prevailing situation in South Africa. On the basis of the work carried out in 1990 and 1991, UNESCO will contribute to the elaboration of policies for the period which will follow the elimination of apartheid, in collaboration with the liberation movements, research institutions and democratic anti-apartheid forces. The studies and reports prepared in 1991 will be broadly disseminated. A special effort will be made in regard to training.

151. Where the effort to combat all forms of discrimination is concerned, UNESCO envisages focusing its programme on the protection and promotion of the cultural rights of minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and their families, religious groups and non-citizens.

152. Lastly, UNESCO will continue its activities relating to the implementation of the recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopted on 19 November 1974 by the General Conference at its eighteenth session. The studies on measures which impede or promote tolerance and understanding will also be continued. Specific programmes relating to the development of a democratic culture and a peace culture will be developed throughout the biennium 1992-1993.

4. Joint activities

153. In addition to its cooperation in the implementation of the activities scheduled for 1991, informal consultations have already taken place with the Centre for Human Rights regarding the organization of internships for human rights specialists from the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) within the competent services of various institutions of the United Nations system.

154. Informal consultations have also taken place with a view to the establishment of networks of documentation centres on South Africa, and the joint establishment of a database on research, documentation and activities by the United Nations and the specialized agencies with regard to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

155. The possibility of preparing and publishing jointly an anthology on the struggle against apartheid is also being examined with the Centre for Human Rights. This would involve compiling poems, novels, statements, speeches etc. from all regions of the world.

156. Working meetings have taken place with the Centre for Human Rights and particularly with the International Labour Organisation with a view to drawing up and implementing jointly a programme of activities for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993).

5. Proposals for the improvement of coordination and cooperation

157. Lastly, UNESCO has made an effort to develop cooperation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the system. Its invitation to cooperate technically and financially in the implementation of its own programme of activities has not always been promptly and adequately responded to by the other institutions. In addition, there has very often been no follow-up to decisions taken at the inter-agency consultations. On the basis of the experience gained, UNESCO considers that it is pointless to try to affirm coordination and cooperation in the abstract, without adopting a specific and concrete joint programme. In its view, the second inter-agency consultation on coordination of activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which will take place at Geneva in March/April 1991, should consider the following points:

(a) Preparation of a programme of activities, to be carried out jointly, concerning studies and research; meetings; production of educational and information material; and creation of a database;

(b) Creation of a coordination unit (committee or commission) made up of the officials directly responsible in each institution (focal points). This coordination unit would be responsible for implementing the joint programme and, if necessary, of locating extrabudgetary resources. The members should keep one another informed of all activities, decisions, correspondence etc. relating to the common programme adopted;

(c) The annual inter-agency meeting should determine the broad policy, the strategy and the action modalities. Follow-up should be the responsibility of a standing coordination committee.

D. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

158. The International Civil Aviation Organization continues to implement strictly its early assembly resolutions on condemnation of the policies of apartheid and racial discrimination of South Africa (A15-7), and on measures to be taken in response to resolutions 2505 (XXIV) and 1704 (XVI) of the United Nations General Assembly in relation to South Africa (A18-4). Under

the terms of resolution A18-4, South Africa is not invited to meetings convened by ICAO or provided with documentation or communications except where the Convention on International Civil Aviation specifically requires it.

159. More particularly, under the provisions of the more recent ICAO resolution A27-5, "Condemnation of the policies of apartheid and racial discrimination of South Africa and measures to be taken in response to the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in that regard", adopted in October 1989, a comprehensive report is submitted to the ICAO Council at each session. This report contains a list of Contracting States that have informed ICAO that their Governments have banned air links and/or have suspended or terminated bilateral air transport agreements with South Africa. It also informs the Council of significant developments in South Africa.

E. World Health Organization (WHO)

160. The World Health Organization states that all non-governmental organizations in official relations with WHO having members in South Africa are asked to demonstrate that their South African member organizations are open to all qualified persons irrespective of race. It can be understood that the non-governmental organizations in question work against apartheid in South Africa.

161. Regarding support to the front-line States, WHO's programme activities are extensive. For example, with respect to AIDS, much is undertaken with the help of non-governmental organizations and in support of non-governmental organizations; such activity is in accordance with the relevant WHO resolutions and is also mindful of appeals to provide relief and assistance to the victims of apartheid.

IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

162. The Interpol general secretariat states that it has no particular information to communicate relating to activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination but the Organization is committed to observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as stated in Article 2 of the Interpol Constitution. In addition, the Organization is planning to include a presentation on Interpol and Human Rights at its annual training seminar for National Central Bureau Officers.

V. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The International Association of Lions Clubs

163. The issue of race is not a consideration in allowing entrance into or exclusion from membership in a Lions Club. The only criteria are those listed in the section of the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

164. The Statistical Department does not keep records on the racial, ethnic, sexual or religious backgrounds of the Association's members. The membership consists of men and women dedicated to providing service for those in need. The universality of the Association's service objective is personified by the first object of the Association, "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world."

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/45/22).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 43 (A/45/43).

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 45 (A/45/45).